

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

February 24,
2017



STA Families,

We have several important events coming up in the next week. On Sunday, we are having a Family Mass at 8:30 AM at the STA church. All school families are welcome to come. Please remember students can earn a NUT card for coming to the Mass in their school uniform.

On Friday, we have our Parent-Teacher Conferences from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Please remember that there will be NO school Friday for conferences. Make sure to schedule your conference online with your child's teacher.

Finally, our school will be celebrating Ash Wednesday to celebrate the beginning of Lent. Students will attend Mass on Wednesday and receive their ashes. Students should not use NUT cards on Wednesday because we are attending Mass.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

*Family Mass (K/4
lead, 6/2
hospitality) –
Sunday, February 26*

*Ash Wednesday –
Wednesday, March 1*

*NO SCHOOL –
Parent-Teacher
Conferences –
Friday, March 3*

*STA School Advisory
Board Meeting –
Wednesday, March 8
(7:00-8:30 AM)*

*AdvancEd
Accreditation Visit –
Friday, March 10*

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please remember that Parent-Teacher Conferences are this Friday, March 3, from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM. All families must attend their conference, and we will not release your child's report card until you have a conference with your child's teacher. You should have received an email from your teacher with the link to sign up for your conference. If you did not, please contact your child's teacher for this link. This is an extremely important meeting, as it gives you and your child's teacher an opportunity to talk about your child's progress this year.

Also, please note that there is NO school on Friday, March 3 for conferences. We have made this change in order to fit all of our teacher's conferences into this day.

Intent to Return Form

In order to better help us plan for next year, we are asking current families to fill out an intent to return form. This form asks whether you have re-registered for next year, intend to re-register, are undecided, or know you are not going to return next year. This information helps in planning our classrooms for next year. Please know that what you indicate on this form is not a final decision. We are trying to project what our class sizes will be, and this information helps.

Please click on the link [here](#) to complete this form.

Re-Register for the 2017-18 School Year

More students are in for 2017-18 at STA! We currently have 159 students registered for next year, which means we are 45 more students away from our goal of 200 by March 24. Today is the last day to receive \$70 off of your registration fee. Starting Monday, you can receive \$45 off of your registration if you register by March 13. See the table below for more information on this deal.

Registration Date	Registration Fee	Savings
February 24	\$125	\$70
February 27 – March 13	\$150	\$45
March 14 – March 24	\$175	\$20
April 3 – August	\$195	\$0

Students who have re-registered can wear their "I'm In for 17-18" pins to school. We will be posting pictures every week of our re-registered students on the bulletin board outside of the office. Make sure to register and guarantee your child's spot for next year!

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – PK/K Families Lead

Book Fair – February 26-March 3

Lunch Helpers – Daily throughout the year from 11:00-12:00

Field Trip Chaperones – Please contact your child's teacher if interested

Help Pre-K students pack-up for dismissal – Contact Mrs. Lendi or Mrs. Pruitt



Sunday Family Mass and Book Fair

This Sunday, we will be having another Family Mass at 8:30 AM in the STA church. All STA families are welcome to attend. Our Gospel Choir will be performing, and our 4th grade and Kindergarten students will lead the readings. 2nd and 6th grade families are responsible for leading hospitality after Mass. Students who attend this Mass in their school uniform can earn a NUT card.

Also, we will be starting the Scholastic Book Fair on Sunday. Students and families can go to shop for books at this fair in the parish hall. The book fair will run until Friday, March 3.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Our students will attend Mass on Wednesday and receive a mark of ashes on their head as part of the Ash Wednesday celebration. All STA families are welcome to attend this Mass at 8:30 AM at the church.

Because we will be going to Mass Wednesday, there will be NO school Mass on Tuesday. Students should also not use a NUT card on Wednesday since we will be attending Mass.

Sweatshirt Day – PBIS Reward

Last week, our school once again earned 10,000 STAR points. As a reward, students will be allowed to wear sweatshirts or hoodies in school on Tuesday. Students should still come in their school uniform, but they are allowed to wear a sweatshirt or hoodie of their choice in school on Tuesday. We are happy to see our students continue to stay safe, take responsibility, and act Christ-like in school.

Parking Lot Help

I want to thank the parents who have stepped up to help in the parking lot before and after school recently. We rely on parent volunteers to make sure our parking lot runs safely and smoothly before and after school. We still need more parents to help set up and take down cones, and to help guide traffic during these times. Please let me know if you are available to help out. Remember that we will be dismissing outside the rest of the year unless there is inclement weather.

African-American History Month at STA

STA has continued to celebrate African-American History Month. Our students did the following last week to celebrate:

- All of our classes have decorated their doors to represent a component of African-American History. Today, classes took tours of the decorated doors to learn about African-American history. I encourage families to walk our halls to see our student's work on the doors
- On Wednesday, Ms. Jan Irwin gave a presentation on the role sharecropping played in African-American history to our 5th-8th grade students.
- Today, our 8th grade attended the Archdiocese of Chicago's African-American Prayer Service at Holy Name Cathedral.



End of the School Year

As I stated in a newsletter a few weeks ago, we will be moving our last day of school up if we end up not using any of our snow days this year.

Currently, the last day of school is scheduled to be June 9. However, if we do not use any snow days, we will move the last day up to June 2. This has not yet been finalized, but I am anticipating this happening unless we receive a surprise snowstorm in March. I would encourage all families to be prepared for this change.

If we move the last day, it will not significantly alter our schedule for the end of the year. The only event we would move is the Kindergarten celebration. Currently, this celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6. If we do move the last day up, we will move this event to Wednesday, May 31. Kindergarten parents should be prepared for this possibility.

I will notify parents when this decision is finalized, and if there are any other schedule changes, before spring break begins on March 24.

Former STA Student Honored

Jessica Booker, STA class of 2013, was honored by the Archdiocese of Chicago with the Junior African-American Heritage Award. Jessica is currently a senior at Holy Trinity High School who has been on the honor roll every semester with a 3.6 GPA. We are proud of Jessica and all of the great things she has done since graduating from STA.



Open Houses and Tours at STA

Below is a message from Tareema Jean-Baptiste, who is coordinating admissions for our school:

Attention STA! March 16th is fast approaching and this our last Open House opportunity for this school year! Please, please, please tell all your friends, family, co-workers...to come check us out! Open house is March 16th from 5-7pm. Interested families can register online at www.stapostleschool.com or email tjeanbap@stapostleschool.com. REMEMBER THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR 25 DOLLAR REFERRAL AWARD!

General Reminders

- Remember that all STA families need to complete 20 service hours and log them on Track It Forward. Make sure to do both of these things. Please let me know if you have any issues with Track It Forward.
- Home and School has organized a STA Chicago Wolves trip on April 15. Look for information on this in the attached flyer.
- The Book Fair begins on Sunday, February 26 and goes until Friday, March 3. This is an opportunity for parents to earn service hours.
- My graduate school classes have resumed this week. I will be leaving right before dismissal on Tuesdays to make it to my 4:00 PM class downtown. This class goes until May.
- We have an All-School Mass Tuesday. 3rd grade will lead the Mass.
- We need some parent volunteers to help open student lunches from 11:00-12:00 daily. Please let Mr. Gallo or Mrs. Damico know if you are interested. This will count for service hours.

- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com